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LETTER DATED 22 JULY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that between 1945 and 2000 hours on 5 July 1996 an Iraqi fishing vessel, the Basrah Fishery and Fish Marketing Company's Shatt al-Arab, was subjected to a search by persons from a United States frigate on station near the Iraqi port of Mina' al-Bakr. At the time, the vessel was lying at anchor between Mina' al-Bakr and Mina' Khawr al-Amiq while undergoing repairs.

I request your intervention with the Government of the United States of America with a view to halting and preventing any repetition of these hostile actions against Iraqi civilian vessels, actions that are in open defiance of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of international law and that jeopardize the interests of a State that is a Member of the United Nations.

I also affirm the legally established right of the Republic of Iraq to compensation for the damage such actions and provocative and unwarranted threats have caused it.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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